

### *If Adopted, Congress Would Face First Pay Cut In 77 Years*

Washington, DC – Wednesday, in his continued fight against Congressional pay raises, Harry Teague joined with a bipartisan group of representatives in sending a letter to the House Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee requesting that the Taking Responsibility for Congressional Pay Act be included in the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act for 2011. Teague, an original co-sponsor of the legislation, signed on to the letter in an effort to expedite a vote on the bill, which would cut pay for all Senators and Representatives by five percent beginning January 1, 2011 in an effort to reduce federal spending.

“I am proud of the work we did to finally stop the automatic pay raise for Members of Congress, and given our nation’s economic situation, I think it makes good sense for Congress to do something it hasn’t done since the 1930’s – take a pay cut. Many of my constituents in southern New Mexico are finding ways to cut back and Congress needs to do the same to show we are serious about cutting down the deficit,” said Harry Teague. “We need to take action sooner rather than later. A vote on this bill will make it clear that Congress is serious about tackling our national debt.”

In addition to the Congressional pay-cut, the bill would also block any automatic increase in congressional salaries for next year. If passed, this legislation would be the first salary reduction for Members of Congress since 1933.

Congressman Teague has opposed Congressional pay raises since first taking office in January 2009. He is an original co-sponsor of a measure to block federal lawmakers from receiving automatic pay increases for the 2011 fiscal year and joined more than 100 co-sponsors on H.R. 156, which blocked the automatic pay increase for FY2010. The measure was eventually adopted by Congressional leaders and the 2010 pay raise was eliminated.